GATT

4231. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs a few months back;

(b) what consequential legislation is in the offtng to meet the requirement of the agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. India signed GATT-94 on 15th April, 1994.

(b) and (c) Agriculture Ministry is processing the sui-generis legislation in which it is proposed to protect the traditional and inalienable rights of the farmers to save, use, exchange, share and sell seeds on a noncommercial basis and the researchers rights to have free access to the protected material.

Floods in Karnataka

4232. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD,
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total assessment of loss in the recent floods in Karnataka, by the Central
Observers;

(b) whether the Central Government has released any assistance to Karnataka apart from releasing quarterly instalments from Central Reserve Fund;

(c) whether the Central Government have released additional assistance to Gujarat in addition to release of funds from Central Reserve Fund;and

(d) if so, why Karnataka has not been given additional assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) On the directions of Prime Minister, Union Minister of State for Defence visited the flood affected areas in Karnataka. The State Government reported to the Minister a total damage of Rs. 93.50 crores based on their initial assessment.

(b) Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, State Governments are required to meet all expenditure rising out of natural calamities from the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). There is no provision for any additional assistance for relief expenditure other than the CRF. Government of India has released to the State in advance the third and fourth quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 10,125 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Assistance sought by Karnataka Government for Agricultural Developmental Schemes

4233. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted two proposals to the Centre seeking external aid to the extent of Rupees 153 crores under a comprehensive agricultural developmental scheme and to modernise irrigation tanks in the State;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government had also sent a proposal seeking Rupees 37 crore-aid from World Bank for desiliting of 165 tanks and another proposal to secure Rupees 116 crores assistance from the European Economic Community Consortium Fund; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Centre to sanction the farm assistance sought for by the Karnataka State and process the other proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir. However, discussions have taken place with the State Government of Karnataka for a comprehensive Agricultural Development Project with World Bank assistance for Karnataka.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Report on Organic Farming

4234. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the